

Springerville Town Council
Special Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2020
5:30 p.m.

Council Present: Phil Hanson, Jr., Mayor
Robert MacKenzie, Vice Mayor
Richard Davis, Councilmember
Ruben Llamas, Councilmember
Shelly Reidhead, Councilmember

Staff: Joseph Jarvis, Town Manager
Kelsi Miller, Town Clerk
Susan Seils, Museum Director
Sean Kienle, Airport Director
Sharon Pinckard, Community Service Director
Mike Nuttall, Chief of Police
Max Sadler, Fire Chief
Robert Pena Jr. Assistant Fire Chief / Foreman
Robert Pena III. Battalion Chief

Public Amber Shepard, Donald Scott

Mayor Hanson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with the Town Clerk completing a roll call, a quorum is present.

1. Public Participation: None

2. Old Business: None

3a. Discussion and update on COVID-19: Manager Jarvis started the discussion with what the town is doing in response to COVID-19. He informed them for public meetings we have set up a call-in line, although we are not restricting public in joining our meetings, we want them to know there are alternative methods for them to join if they are more comfortable. The town is also researching video streaming options. During the current meeting there is one citizen on the phone. Manager Jarvis started with reviewing the Town Code Chapter 2.52 and Chapter 2.48 and also Title 26 of the A.R.S "Local emergency: power of political subdivisions: state agency assistance. Explaining to the council that they have the ability by common council to declare an emergency. He let them know the steps that have been made in the Heritage Center and Casa Malpais Archaeology site in response to COVID-19. Inmates have wiped down all hard surfaces in the museum and lobby and will continue to do so. He gave them material from Apache County Emergency Management and Preparedness director that has been distributed to our employees. This material specifically explains the importance of sick employees staying home, separation of sick employees, cleanliness, and additional measure in response to COVID-19. The town has also distributed safety guidelines as recommended by the AZ Dept of Health Services to the local restaurants. The towns website and Facebook pages also have the President's Coronavirus guidelines for America posted. On March 17, 2020 Battalion Chief Pena prepared a letter for the Mayor to sign, from both the Town and Fire Department regarding safety and awareness. This letter was posted in the town lobbies, websites, and Facebook pages. Councilor Llamas commented that the majority of the information is common sense stuff, and he is baffled that people aren't following these precautions. He would like to know if law enforcement can take legal action when individuals refuse to follow recommended steps to slow the spread. Round Valley Justice Court has set a hand washing station in front of the court house and requesting individuals wash hands before entering, some are refusing. Can the town do anything to enforce this? Chief Nuttall let him know that the person who owned the business or building could ask them to leave, and if they didn't then the police department could make them leave as they are now

trespassing. Trespassing is enforceable, not washing hands at this time is not enforceable. If Marshall Law goes into effect the police departments will have different powers in these types of situations.

3b. Discussion and possible action regarding the Towns response to COVID-19. Councilor Reidhead recommends Springerville Town Hall to close their lobby to public traffic and have appointments only. In an effort to protect staff she feels they should work by phone and email as much as possible. Manager Jarvis wanted to supply council with Executive Orders from Governor Doug Doucey regarding business closures in the event of a positive case of COVID-19 in Apache County. He went over who this will affect and how it will affect them. He will be passing these orders out to restaurants, bars, movie theaters and gyms. He noted that he had some examples from other entities on how they are handling the situation. Some have closed their operations to foot traffic, customers must interact via phone or email. Manager Jarvis asked the council what would they like the town to be doing. Mayor Hanson agrees with Councilor Reidhead's earlier recommendation on closing the doors and using universal precautions. Manager Jarvis wanted to verify the public facilities they would like to limit access, they were in agreeance it will include the Museum, Town Hall, Senior Center (only public access areas), public entry at the Police Dept, Parks, and terminal area at the airport (not to restrict planes coming in). He let them know that during this time they would be shifting staff affected by the closures. He has already had the conversation with Susan regarding Heritage Center staff. They may use leave time or we can let them assist another department to continue to work. Sharon with the Senior Center let council know how they will safely continue operations at the center. By appointment only community members can still meet with the low-income assistance program administrators. They are continuing to provide the emergency food bank, but doing so as a drive through service. Currently the Headstart program is on hold. There are two employment and training programs for 55 and older individuals, one of those programs has closed the other is still active. Dining room meals are by pickup only and drop off delivery. Meals on Wheels is continuing with modifications to ensure distance and sanitation. She feels that the group she is serving is the most vulnerable people in our area. Her and Joe will evaluate the transportation services they are providing and decide if they will continue that. Councilor Reidhead hopes they consider limiting the transportation to only essential trips such as medical appointments. Councilor Llamas asked Sharon if they had considered instead of taking the seniors to the store to shop if they could do the shopping for them? She replied her and Joe are planning to discuss this as it is very difficult. She informed him the Senior Center is not bonded and the liability of taking peoples money to go shop for them is huge along with the capabilities of being able to get multiple people's groceries at once would be problematic. She has reached out to the Catholic Church to see if they had some volunteers that would be interested in providing this service. Councilor Llamas would like us to continue to look into options to reduce exposure for the elderly. Chief Nuttall wanted to let council know he feels they are okay to leave their lobby unlocked. His staff is behind a physical barrier and window from the public. He feels they don't always hear people knocking on their door and when someone is at the police station, they may need immediate help. He feels it is in the best interest of the community, as well as safe for his employees to leave his lobby unlocked. Some measures they can take is asking dispatch to have people meet the police officers outside of their houses while on calls, having dispatch ask about being ill prior to the officer arriving so the officer can better prepare, and stop in-office none essential fingerprinting services. Chief also believes that by showing some normalcy through the police department it will decrease panic in the community, Mayor Hanson agrees. The Town Clerk let the council know that we are currently in the filing period for the Town Councils upcoming election. The Secretary of States office has made revisions for filing and circulating petitions during the COVID-19 pandemic, if anyone is interested in alternative methods please contact the clerk. Assistant Fire Chief Pena reported that the fire department is actively working with Apache Counties Emergency Management Operations. The first goal is insuring everyone has personal protective equipment. He said they are taking extra precaution on medical calls. They will have one EMT triage the patient prior to the rest of the firefighters coming entering to slow possible exposure. The EOC teleconferences will go from 2 updates a week to 4 updates a week. These teleconferences will be streamed at the Fire Department and most likely Manager Jarvis's office if any council or staff would like to listen in on them. Councilor MacKenzie asked if this was County only or State as well. Pena let him know this is primarily an

Apache County teleconference. Councilor Reidhead asked if we know if the daycares have shut down along with the schools. Manager Jarvis said yes, as far as he knows the majority of daycares and the boys and girls club have shut down. Manager Jarvis also let them know that during this challenging time there are resources being developed to help those employees who are trying to work and care for children. They need to talk to their supervisor if they are in need of special provisions. Robert Pena Jr. also wanted to report on what public works is doing during this. Employees are being advised to limit contact especially with the public in face to face instances. Councilor Reidhead asked if we are going to continue having prisoners working for us and if we will keep the public bathroom on HWY 191 open? Manager Jarvis let her know that yes as of this time we will keep those restrooms cleaned and opened. He also reported that the Town will continue to employ inmates until the prison advises us otherwise. Mayor Hanson mentioned that he has spoken to the administration as well as the local guard and was informed it will be business as usual until they receive direction otherwise, Manager Jarvis said we will be watching inmates for symptoms of illness. Councilor Llamas mentioned that the court house has outdoors hand wash stations, he is curious if we can put them across town. Councilor MacKenzie said we do not have the authority to put wash stations on private property. Councilor Reidhead asked who would pay for them? Chief Nuttall added we could suggest to the business to have someone at the door that offers a spritz of hand sanitizer to everyone entering. Council was informed that we can suggest many things, but legally we can't require people to use it. Manager Jarvis informed council that if they make an emergency proclamation, they will have to put the emergency measures in the proclamation for them to be able to stand. Councilor Reidhead wants to make sure they take extra precautions to be constitutional in this proclamation.

3c. Proclamation 2020-001, Discussion and possible action regarding adopting Proclamation 2020-001, declaration of emergency in response to COVID-19:

Robert MacKenzie/ Shelly Reidhead motion to adopt Proclamation 2020-001, declaration of emergency in response to COVID-19.

Discussion: Mayor Hanson mentioned that he had a teleconference with Sylvia Allen, he let them know the steps we are taking to be proactive in this manner. He also has been in contact with Kyrsten Sinemas office and they are closely monitoring things. Hoarding has been brought up, and it is apparently a statewide issue. Manager Jarvis said that the grocery stores are trying to get the message out for people to stop hoarding. They should continue to buy groceries as normal to keep a normal supply. The grocery stores can limit items themselves right now. Manager Jarvis showed the council the proclamation that Pinetop Lakeside and Eagar has adopted. We are suggesting a few changes for their consideration. One change is do they want to include closures of any Town owned buildings in the proclamation? Council suggests we remove that line from the proclamation and deal with any future closures of town facilities in a different manner. We also suggest that the common council take action to proclaim the proclamation, due to the Town Code not supporting the Mayor solely doing so. We also suggest that we remove the line that says, "the general public may not attend the public meetings". Council agrees that we should limit the amount of people in our meetings, but should not close it to the public. Councilor Llamas said that the way the proclamation reads he feels it gives all of the power to just the Mayor, her would personally be more comfortable if the proclamation was ruled by the Common Council. Mayor Hanson said that he would not make any dramatic decisions without meeting with the Council first. Councilor Davis agreed that he would like it to read Mayor and Council as well, all other councilmembers agreed.

Robert MacKenzie/ Shelly Reidhead amended motion to adopt Proclamation 2020-001, with directed changes.

Vote:	Ayes:	Phil Hanson
		Robert MacKenzie
		Richard Davis
		Ruben Llamas

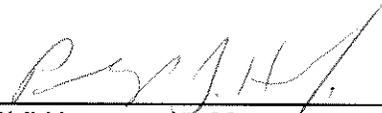
Shelly Reidhead

11. Adjournment:

Robert MacKenzie/ Shelly Reidhead motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

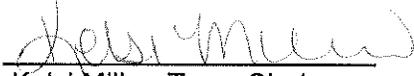
Vote: Ayes:

Phil Hanson
Robert MacKenzie
Ruben Llamas
Shelly Reidhead



Phil Hanson, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:



Kelsi Miller, Town Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and copy of the minutes of the Springerville Town Council in a special session on Friday, March 20, 2020. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this 23rd day of March, 2020



Kelsi Miller, Town Clerk